

SPRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Government Corruptions.—The Power and Responsibility of Congress.

From the N. Y. Herald.

To-day week the two houses of the Fortieth Congress will reassemble at Washington to consider the ways and means for properly carrying on our National Government. We expect that they will have much to do in the way of investigations into election frauds and terrorism in the Southern States and elsewhere, and on the universal and impartial suffrage questions, and in cobbling up the currency and the national debt, and in wild-goose chases for immediate specie payments; but we do not expect much in the reformation of those Government corruptions and abuses through which the Treasury and the taxpayers have been defrauded out of a sum of money exceeding one hundred millions a year.

These Government corruptions, frauds, and spoliation have become the crying evils of the day. They have to a shocking extent demoralized the whole body politic, national, State, and municipal. They have increased, are increasing, and if not soon diminished they will surely culminate in national bankruptcy and the most disastrous financial revolution in all the annals of speculation and extravagant and swindling financial adventures. We have, for instance, numerous coalitions or gangs of Treasury robbers, in the shape of whisky rings, involving Government officials and outside confederates; and we see that so far all the efforts of the President (such as they have been) to get at the head or the tail or the body of these whisky frauds have signally failed. The parties detailed by him to ferret out these frauds have themselves been indicted and arrested for frauds and perjury by the parties against whom investigations were directed, or by some process or other every attempt to get into the mystery of these whisky frauds has been checked or headed off.

The President, be sure, has had and has still the power of bringing this business to a searching investigation by the Senate, in a suspension of every internal revenue official accused or suspected of incompetency or dishonesty, and it is not yet too late for him to make up a batch of such officials for the consideration of the Senate under the Tenth of Office law. But, after all, the power and the responsibility in this matter belong to Congress. The two houses in their war with Andy Johnson came so near turning him adrift for the offenses of the suspension and removal of Stanton that Mr. Johnson has, perhaps, thought it wisest, since his narrow escape, to avoid the trap set to catch him. At all events, as the President can do nothing of a positive character any longer, except with the advice and consent of the Senate, the duty of correcting these atrocious abuses upon the Treasury falls upon the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The Government as it is differs very widely from the Government as it was. The Executive was a positive power in the Government, but he is now a mere figurehead. The Government as it was consisted of three departments—the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. It has been practically reduced to one—the legislative. With two-thirds against him in each house, even the veto power of the Executive has been a dead letter to Johnson. General Grant will be better off in this respect, but still the power and the duty of reformation and reform belong to Congress. The President may recommend, but the two houses must do the work, or provide the President the ways and means. For example, President Grant may clear out all the present revenue officers, great and small, and put in a new set, and they may be confirmed by the Senate; but under the laws as they are it may be discovered after the lapse of a few months that he has only exchanged a swarm of Treasury flies well gorged for a swarm half famished and ravenous for this whisky plunder.

What we want from Congress are the ways and means for a speedy trial and punishment of official delinquents of all sorts through the authority of the President, with such amendments in our laws of taxation and revenue collections as will do away with some, if not all, of the existing incentives to frauds and perjuries. We say, too, that if this Congress and the Congress which succeeds it, on the 4th of March shall fail in this business there will be a Congress, or at least a House of Representatives, elected two years hence which will bring President Grant into direct rapport with the Democratic party.

Something About Our Style.

From "Brick" Pomero's N. Y. Democrat.

This is a Democratic newspaper. We presume it is entirely unnecessary to tell our readers this, but to prevent the possibility of a misunderstanding, we have stated it in the plainest of plain English.

As a newspaper, the Democrat may be somewhat peculiar, but we are responsible to no man for our peculiarity.

We have been condemned because we have been vigorous, bold, defiant.

We have done and will continue to do, what we believe to be a duty.

In our war in behalf of Democracy, in behalf of the people, ploughmen, taxpayers, laboring men, we have pursued that course which has been the best calculated to advance the interests of truth, justice, and right.

We found ourselves in antagonism with a powerful and influential mob of fanatics, liars and controlled by a clique of the vilest thieves, swindlers, plunderers, people-robbers, and shoddy bondholders. These men had snuggled themselves into the high places of power, and with the means in their hands, they were binding the chains of oppression upon the limbs of the free American, were crushing out the life and substance of the people of this great Republic.

Such an unscrupulous party, with such belittling designs, could not be handled carefully with gloves, but there was need of effective sledge-hammer strokes from those earnest in the work. It needed courage to deal successfully with such a party.

In treating with thieves and ruffians it is necessary to sometimes be rough, and it is because we have sometimes fought this party with its own weapons that we have been called indecent and coarse. Had we a better foe to contend against, had we gentlemen of honor to fight, we should have fought very differently; but in the emergency, when so much was at stake, and when so much depended upon quick, decisive action, it was not our part to hold back while we could put on gloves in order to handle the enemy carefully—so that we should not hurt him!

We did not stand up to be knocked down by the enemy, but we improved every opportunity we had to "lay out" any of the foe.

We are still after them directly at the pillars supporting the radical temple, and if we know any of them out of position we shall accomplish just so much towards bringing down that temple; and if we can bring it down, then shall our victory be complete.

If some of these shots shall hit, shall hurt

or kill some one who is standing in the way of the people's prosperity, they will accomplish more than we intend and desire.

We fight to kill!

We hear our shots red hot that they may the better do execution—that they may rake the ranks of the enemy with deeper destruction.

We do not expect our enemies—the bondholders, thieves, and radicals—to like our style; if they did, we should be suspicious of it and change it.

We do not strive to win the applause of those we stand arrayed against, and those who would put aught in the way of our success in our fight for the right, for the people, and their cause of liberty, justice, and protection against the bondholders, the thieves, and the infamous scoundrels who seek to oppress them are not our friends.

These who are not with us are against us, and at such we direct our guns as much as at the open enemy.

We give no quarter to traitors!

It is our purpose to drive the spies from our encampment, marshal our forces under true and tried leaders, then push forward to victory!

If we have been personal it has been because the person attacked has stood in the way of success for our cause, and under the circumstances we shall be personal again.

If we are somewhat rough and hard and determined in our knocks and whacks at Jacobinism, it has been because we had a rough, hard, and determined enemy to fight against, and he could not be vanquished with soft words and caresses.

It is against human nature to feed the man with honey who seeks to give you gall.

It is against human nature to give endearing names in addressing those who rob your honor, clothes, line, or smoke-house.

It is against human nature for a person earnestly engaged in a good work to attempt to print a paper to please those who are determined not to be pleased, who will not buy the paper at any hazard, but who read it only after stealing it, and who are doing all in their power to injure you and your cause.

We print the Democrat after our own style. It appears to please several hundred thousand brave men who read it and pay for it. It is doing good work in the cause of Democracy, and will continue so to do.

We do not print it to please our enemies—the enemies to our cause, and we hope they will not be pleased.

This will do to put in your pipe if you should desire to smoke.

A Tale of Two Cities.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

The news columns of this journal have printed two stories in the last few days that should not pass without comment. One is a tale of life in New York city, the other of life in Richmond. Each points a terrible moral, and indicates a want of strength in our society which should receive the attention of every lover of his race.

In a dark neighborhood of New York city we find a ruffian named Larkin, accompanied by one or two of his friends, setting forth in the middle of the night, maddened with liquor, determined upon a quarrel. This man was known to fame as "the baker" of a celebrated pugilist and a leading politician of Tammany Hall. He was the representative of a controlling element of New York politics, no worse and no better than the men around him—a fair sample of what might be called the politician of the period. He enters a low grog shop, calls for drink and food, and forces a quarrel upon the proprietor. A most terrible combat ensues, and the proprietor is killed. A woman was standing by, "her terror being so great as to deprive her of both motion and speech." There was a sailor in the company, whose comment was that he "had just seen one of the prettiest fights he had ever witnessed." What was the nature of this contest? Campbell, a powerfully-built man, over six feet in height, threw himself upon his opponent Larkin, who was also muscular and strong. When the police came, "Campbell, with the right arm thrown around Larkin, and still grasping the carving-knife against the wall with the left. It required the combined efforts of the officers to tear Campbell from the body of his almost lifeless opponent. Blood formed in pools upon the floor. The table and articles upon it had blood upon them. There was blood upon the gas jet, and the wall bore the impress of Larkin's bloody head and hand." "The physicians state that in all their experience in post-mortem examinations they never before saw a person so frightfully beaten and stabbed. Seven of the wounds were considered fatal, any one of them alone being sufficient to produce death." Here are two men without enmity, without knowledge of each other, without rivalry, without motive for quarrel. They meet casually, and out of the brutality of their nature springs this fearful personal combat, in which one is backed to death and the other alive only by a miracle. When Larkin was found he held a pistol in his hand which had not been discharged. But for the agility and savage assault of Campbell, it is possible that both of them would have been victims of their demonism. The moral of this is only another appeal in favor of temperance. It is the old, old story of wine taking possession of the man, and making him a devil, especially with a man of brutal nature and low instinct. When honor and decency die, very little remains. To a man who can live like Larkin, and be the associate of bullies and prize-fighters, and the representative of the worst element of American society, human life is of little moment. The death he met was the death he sought to give. The philosopher may see in this whole combat the stern law of retribution, but he will see beneath it an absence of honor, of true courage and decency, which is saddening. Why need we read of the canals in the South Sea Islands, when these missionary fields surround and darken our own homes?

—On the morning of Tuesday last, the editor of a Richmond journal, driving in from his country residence, was entering his office, accompanied by one of his staff. As he sauntered up the steps, his companion heard a shot. The editor "fell within two feet of him, and still held his cane and gloves in his hand. He had fallen on his face. He made no exclamation, but groaned, and instinctively put his hand behind him where his pistol was." It was the groan of death, for a gun-shot had entered the neck of the editor, and he was known to the American people as a violent Secessionist, and the conductor of a journal which had done much towards destroying the peace of Virginia. His assassin was a young Virginian, the son of a rich family, well born as Virginia birth goes, and held in high esteem. He had taken a room opposite the editor's office, and looked it. Arming himself with one rifle-pistol, a Colt's repeating pistol, a Derringer pistol, and a shot-gun, he had deliberately waited until his victim made his appearance in the street, and then killed him. When the officer came he surrendered himself, and simply said, "You will see me protected," to which the minister of the law replied, "Certainly," and this Virginia gentleman, well born and highly connected, with the blood of assassination upon his hands, went out into the world to receive the acclamations of his class.

The history of the Southern States is full of

reckless daring. In these warm countries, where life is so easily sustained, there has always been a great contempt for life. The annals of the South are full of personal encounters, and fierce combats, in which we find rudely and deliberately slaying one another to satisfy a rough notion of honor. Much as we may have deplored the sentiment that made existence so cheap, it was generally attended with a sort of coarse chivalry which took from it the malignant element of murder. If Andrew Jackson attacked Thomas H. Benton in the public highway, Benton knew his intentions, and the shooting was returned. It was life for life. There was no knocking, no cowardice, no hiding in a room, no undue advantage. Had this kind, high-born Virginian met Mr. Pollard in the street and shot him there would have been another of the encounters of which we constantly read. One man might have been killed, and probably two, for we find the dying editor instinctively grasping for his pistol to defend himself. But here is an assassination as deliberately planned as that accomplished by Wilkes Booth. The murderer not only takes every precaution for his own safety, but, as it were, to escape detection, he locks the door and arms himself in case of an attack upon him; and thus, in the silence and security, lies in wait for the man who had wronged him. Tried by any ideal of justice, by even the lowest "code of honor" that controls the rudest class of Southern society, this man is a cowardly and deliberate murderer.

And yet we find, according to the papers, that this assassin is actually a hero. When the minister of the law comes to him he sinks on his knees and asks for "protection." There is "joy" in the city, and his friends crowd around him. It is telegraphed to the North that there is gladness because one poor writer lies dead upon the sidewalk of a great city, surrounded by the people by whom he had long been cherished, and by the party of which he had been for years an earnest and accepted leader. We dismiss the motive in this case, because there can be no motive for assassination. There is no human wrong that any tribunal, however barbarous, can recognize as sufficient to excuse one man's lying in murderous ambush for another. Such things are only known among the wild Indians and the tribes of Africa. For the first time we see it in Virginia. For the first time we find a high-born youth of the Old Dominion taking upon himself a vengeance that has long since been abandoned to savages, and around him are sympathizing friends. He suddenly becomes famous. Instead of being committed to prison like a felon, he is "in the office of the Chief of Police, where he enjoys the company of his friends, and is supplied with the best of everything that can be provided." "He is not treated like a criminal."

There is much to be done in a society where assassination becomes a fashionable virtue. The story of this murder is the saddest we have heard for many years from the Old Dominion. We trust, that the people that treat the place of that which makes a murderer in ambush the hero of the hour.

Credit and Coin—Better Prospects.

From the N. Y. Times.

The November coin interest is now about all disbursed; and nearly the whole of it has been retained in the country. In addition to the mass of gold thus put upon the market, the Sub-Treasury in this city is, at the present time, selling coin at the rate of \$500,000 per day, and it would seem that the necessities of the Treasury will require considerable sales between now and the close of the year. At the first of the incoming year, or in about a month from this date, the January dividends will fall due, and there will then be disbursed nearly \$30,000,000 in coin. Much the greater part of this is due to American bondholders, and we may expect that the whole of it will be retained in the country; for the very large supply of cotton already at the seaboard will presently furnish an amount of exchange sufficient to obviate all danger of our being compelled to make shipments of gold. It will unquestionably be a difficult thing for the speculators to retain the present high premium in the face of the immense outflow upon the market from the Treasury, through interest disbursements and current sales; and their late spasmodic movements and attempted combinations give evidence of their apprehensions, both for the present and the immediate future. Even after the heavy disbursements of the next thirty or forty days, the Government will hold a very great supply of gold in its vaults—the official estimate on the subject being, we believe, \$80,000,000. In fact, the health and strength of the Treasury at the present time, with the general condition of the finances, and the national prospects, business and political, are of a nature to elevate the public credit at home and abroad.

The forthcoming annual report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be looked for with much interest, although there is the best assurance that it will indicate no change in his well-known views as to currency and credit, and the necessity of speedily adopting some feasible plan looking to the resumption of specie payments. There is no doubt that the Secretary will be able to make a better exhibit than has ever before been possible, and display a very favorable prospect for the incoming year. The estimates for next year will be greatly reduced, as will most certainly be the expenditures of the Government. It is reported from Washington that the Secretary of the Navy will make a reduction of \$15,000,000 in his department, and will be satisfied with \$20,000,000 instead of \$35,000,000 for the next fiscal year. The Secretary of War also will indicate an important retrenchment in the army expenditures, besides various economical modifications in the army itself; and the report of Grant as General of the Army upon military matters, will be in the same direction. In the working expenses of the Treasury Department, also, there will be a large diminution of expenses as compared with those of previous years; and, in short, in all the Departments, the estimates will be considerably below those of last year. It would not be surprising if the total retrenchment reached \$50,000,000; but the public will hardly credit the statement which has been published with semi-official pretensions, that the Secretary has fixed on his estimate of revenue to be raised for the next fiscal year at \$250,000,000, or a decrease of \$131,000,000 from the estimate of the current fiscal year. There is no doubt that Secretary McCulloch will make his statements and his estimates as favorable as possible. He will not only be desirous of making a good show in the last annual Treasury report he is ever likely to have the opportunity of making, but he will be desirous of offering an attractive display of the retrenchment and economy that are possible next year, under General Grant's administration. It is very well that he should take this course, for Congress may be helped to a realization of his economical and conservative estimates by the very fact of their having been made. We shall certainly uphold every feasible scheme of retrenchment he may propound, and every effort to administer his great Department effectively and honestly; for though we may have had occasion to differ with some of his measures, we have never ceased to give Mr. McCulloch credit for the integrity and faith-

fulness he has brought to the administration of his Department, and a sincere desire to act for the best in the discharge of duties beset with numberless difficulties. On the whole, we look for a Treasury report that will greatly strengthen the national credit, and, in connection with the actual state and assured prospect of affairs, will establish faith in the solvency of the Government.

The Value of Emigration to Us.

From the N. Y. World.

Mr. Banks told us last winter that, since 1790, the European States have furnished this country with upwards of 6,500,000 of their citizens, who, with their descendants, now number above 20,000,000. This is a startling fact, and it brings us at once to an appreciation of the power and wealth we have derived from this great influx of foreign element, because it is tangible. As these twenty millions are to the whole population, so is the ratio of benefit secured by their coming compared with the general aggregate of the national wealth. Mr. Banks ventured the assertion that these twenty millions of aliens by birth and extraction had sent back to Europe \$250,000,000. But we infer that he includes in this statement only those remittances which have been registered, for it is known that large sums have been carried to Great Britain and the Continent by passengers, of which no record was made, and which there was no means of reaching. It would not be extravagant to suppose that, since the foundation of the republic, 325 or 350 millions of dollars have been sent away from our shores by emigrants and their descendants. This whole subject of foreign emigration is one of paramount importance in its relation to the national interests. And though the advantages enjoyed in the past have been large, we have the satisfaction of knowing that they will be greatly exceeded in the future, when the attractions and the opportunities offered to these abroad will be four-fold more than they now are.

From 1820 to 1830, 244,400 persons of alien birth landed on our shores; from 1830 to 1840, 552,000; from 1840 to 1850, 1,588,300; from 1850 to 1860, 2,707,624. Such strides of increase these decades are marvelous, and cannot be compared with any facts in other countries, for the reason that America is the only nation which attracts emigration. Some twenty-five years ago one of the writers for Blackwood was highly elated with the fact that between 1801 and 1821 the population of England, Scotland, and Wales had increased one million, by emigration, Irish seeking work away from home. Indeed, he was so exultant over the event that he fairly challenged anyone and everyone to show a "similar instance of so great an inundation of inhabitants breaking into any country, barbarous or civilized." He affirmed that not even the Goths and Vandals had attained to such a mark when they overwhelmed the Roman empire. He would have been amazed, perhaps, could he have foreseen that, within a few years then to come, over four and one-quarter millions of people would take up their effects and journey, not one hundred miles merely, but three thousand and more, over the briny deep, to found a home in the new Western republic.

What has emigration done for us so far this decade, and what will it do in the future? The annual average at present is not a whit less than 300,000 persons. That is a temperate estimate. Mr. Banks puts it at 350,000. By actual investigation it has been ascertained that the emigrant brings between \$80 and \$100 with him for every man, woman, and child. The latter sum is nearer correct. We have, then, thirty millions, of specie mostly, added to the national money resources, and over seventy-five millions brought in by the emigration from January 1, 1861, to the close of 1864, or over sixty millions, at the minimum rate of \$80 per capita. But we must look further than the money value of the emigrant, and consider his productive capacity. The emigrant is certainly equal to the Southern negro in this respect, and the average production of the latter, even under the incubus of slavery, was set down at \$500 per head per annum. At this rate our annual emigration would add one hundred and fifty millions a year to the cash value of the country. Assuming that from 1865 to 1870 the annual average emigration would only reach 250,000 persons, we have as the result one billion added to the national cash value for the current decade. The emigrant, though he actually doubles the negro capacity, which makes the annual increased cash value from that source three hundred millions, and two billions for the ten years from 1860 to 1870. These figures will give some idea of the benefits we derive from foreign emigration.

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THOMPSON'S LONDON KITCHENER, or EUROPEAN RANGE, for families, hotels, or public institutions, in TWENTY DIFFERENT SIZES, and of every description, for Hot-Air Furnaces, Portable Heaters, Low-down Grates, Fireboard Stoves, and Boilers. See how it compares with the others.

It is in want of a complete Heating Apparatus would do well to call and examine the Golden Eagle, and see how it compares with the others.

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